

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	New Controls in Berlin Area	DATE DISTR.	5 March 1953
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BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. On 31 January 1953 the RBD Berlin issued new service identification cards for railroad personnel, authorizing entry into West Berlin. The cards, which were to go into use on 1 March, are the size of an ordinary postcard, and of similar paper. The front bears the printed inscription "Deutsche Reichsbahn", extending over the whole front in light blue. The card is divided into two parts by a vertical line. A passport photograph is affixed on the upper left side, with the signature and typewritten name of the bearer below it. A stripe about one centimeter wide runs from the lower left corner to the upper right corner. The right-hand portion contains the number of the bearer's identity card (Deutscher Personal-Ausweis) and other data. A rubber stamp authorizing free travel is impressed on the middle of the card.
2. On 10 February the Griebnitz control point between Wannsee and Potsdam was inspected and given to the border police by the construction department of the paramilitary police (KVP). The former control building has been reconstructed by the building firm of Otto Cordes in Potsdam to provide three rooms for body searches. The border police will start their control activity there without prior announcement (date not ascertained).

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3. Since 3 February it has been strictly forbidden to enter Rauchfangwerder Island near Zeuthen (at the southeast corner of Berlin) and the garden properties there. The ferry boat between Zeuthen and the island has been seized by the police.
4. Near Roentgental, the road from Schwanebeck toward Berlin-Buch was blocked on 13 February. All traffic was re-routed via Roentgental, through a check-point on Zepernicker Chaussee (sic; perhaps Zepernicker Strasse). The check-point was occupied by Soviet soldiers and by German border police wearing olive-drab uniforms. Minor roads in the vicinity of Roentgental were not blocked but were constantly watched by four-man patrols.
5. On 14 February the main road-blocks in the area of Schildow were still under construction, and the secondary roads were constantly checked by patrols. Similar measures were observed in the Schoenerlinde area on the same day.
6. Rumors were current in both Roentgental and Schoenerlinde that a zone approximately 1,000 meters broad was to be evacuated between East Berlin and the Russian zone. It was also rumored that anti-tank trenches had been dug near Lindenberge. (Z 96).

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